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PORTLAND PORT'S GREETING FOR CRUISE PASSENGERS

The 2016 cruise season is well under way at Portland Port so we thought it would be a good time to share what cruise passengers can expect when cruise ships call at Portland Port.

Should passengers have any questions when they arrive, Portland Port provides a 'Meet and Greet' team on the quayside, who are prepared with maps and local knowledge. They are also able to translate any language for passengers to ensure that they have the best possible experience.

As well as the meet and greet team, passengers can expect to be met on the quayside by Stuart Cave, the local town crier.

The port also provides a complimentary shuttle bus service that runs from the port to the local town of Weymouth. Alternatively, if passengers wish to stay on the island, the shuttle bus can drop off outside the gates of the port, where Portland Castle is just a short walk away. Both services operate regularly throughout the day.

In the hour leading up to the vessel's departure, there is musical entertainment on the quayside, using local groups such as the Quangle Wangle Choir and Weymouth Concert Brass Band. Finally, to ensure the cruise ships departure and visit to Portland port ends with a bang, the Nothe Fort Artillery Volunteers provide a spectacular 3 shot salute as the vessel pulls away.

Portland Port endeavours to provide every passenger with the best possible experience, so it was fantastic to receive the message below from a passenger who came in on the cruise ship Prinsendam on 29 May 2016.

'We were on the Prinsendam calling at Portland on May 29. We have done more than 25 cruises and I will tell you that the reception at your port was the most welcoming and moving of all. From the moment we stepped off and were greeted by your white bearded gentleman and your tourism ambassadors to the complimentary shuttle to the cannon salute and the wonderful band, it was an exciting visit. We spent time (and money) in Weymouth and were delighted by the festival activities and, of course, the weather. Congratulations and thank you.'

The Port is very active in providing the best possible experience for visiting passengers, as recognised last year when Portland Port was awarded Cruise Insight's 'Most Responsive Port' award at the Cruise Shipping Exhibition in Miami. In 2012 the port received its first award from Cruise Insight for "Most Improved Destination".

Portland Port's General Manager- Commercial, Ian McQuade commented:

"Winning the award for the "Most Responsive Port" and "Most Improved Destination" is a major coup for Portland Port and recognises the effort put in by everyone involved at the port to ensure that all cruise calls run smoothly. The fact that the recognition comes from the cruise lines themselves makes the awards even more special".





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